soft segments of the polyamide/polyether block (PEBA) copolymer consist of amide linkages.

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**Remarks/Arguments:**

In the Specification, the formula at the end of paragraph [0087] has been revised to correct a typographical error wherein "CO" was typed instead of "CO-O".

In the Claims, please delete claims 29-31. Claims 29-31 appear to duplicated claims 26-28, hence their removal. Claims 12 to 24 and 26 to 28 and 32 to 33 remain in consideration under this election.

With regard the claim rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the examiner's suggestions with respect to claims 23 and 24 have been incorporated by deleting the word "or" from the claims. Furthermore claims 26-28 have been amended to eliminate the recital that the composition is "free of aromatic carbonyl groups". Finally claims 32-33 have been amended to delete the first recited "cross-linkable" and replace it with the recital "cross-linked".

With regard the claims 26-28 which are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, the objection is moot because the claims no longer recite that the composition is "free of aromatic carbonyl compounds".

With respect to the provisional double patenting rejections of claims 12-24 and 26-28, a "terminal disclaimer" is appended herewith in full compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

With respect to the claims 26, and 28 which are rejected under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Suzuki et al (US 5,053,316), applicant has modified the claims to recite that the radiation source utilized is a gamma or electron beam radiation source.

Applicant's radiation source is distinguishable over that of Suzuki which recites that the radiation source is "a light source such as a mercury lamp, metal halide lamp or

xenon lamp". The light source recited by Suzuki is of much lower energy than the gamma or electron beam radiation source recited by applicant. Suzuki makes no suggestion to use applicant's gamma or electron beam radiation source.

With respect to the claims 23 and 24 and 26-28 which are rejected under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by O'Neil et al (US '551 or '415), O'Neil recites an irradiation-crosslinked nylon block copolymer. He further recites that " ...preferably the nylon block copolymer...is PEBAX". He further states that the polyamide (blocks) are usually based on Nylon-11 but may be based on nylons-6 or nylon-6.6 or even a copolymer such as nylon-6/nylon-11. As stated in our disclosure (paragraph 87), Pebax is a polyamide/polyether block (PEBA) copolymer with polyamide and polyether blocks or segments linked through ester linkages i.e. polyamide/polyether polyester PEBA block copolymers. The polyamide segments of this copoly(ether-ester-amide) polymer are most preferably Nylon 12 segments (our disclosure paragraph 89). O'Neil does not mention Nylon-12 in his disclosure. Since Pebax compositions with polyamide segments comprising polyamides other than nylon 12 are possible, and since O'Neil specifically recites these other compositions in his disclosure and claims (claim 7 of '551 patent) this shows that O'Neil was not in possession of PEBAX polymers comprising Nylon 12 polyamide segments, and therefore O'Neil does not anticipate our claims. We have amended the aforementioned claims to limit the polyamide segments of the copoly(ether-ester-amide) copolymer recited therein to segments consisting of Nylon-12 polyamide segments.

With respect to new claim 34, applicant recites a crosslinkable PEBA composition wherein the polymer contains amide linkages between the the polyamide hard segment and the polyether soft segment. This polymer is marketed as under the trade name Grilamide and is disclosed in paragraph 94 of this application. O'Neil makes no disclosure regarding such a crosslinkable PEBA composition wherein the polymer contains amide linkages between the the polyamide hard segment and the polyether soft segment. Rather, O'Neil discloses Pebax, a polymer containing an ester linkage between the hard and soft segments.

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Applicant believes the claims under consideration are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely notice of allowance of the elected claims be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date: 9/7/2006



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